

One True Church Series
The Power of Two Witnesses
Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

What is the condition of Christ's ONE true Church?

Ephesian 5:25 - 27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
26 That he might **sanctify** and **cleanse it** with the **washing of water by the word**,
27 That he might present it to himself a **glorious church [Gk; splendid, gorgeous, honorable]** not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be **holy and without blemish**.

Without Spot Or Wrinkle & Holy and Without Blemish:

Are you a “member” of this ONE church of Christ? Who is the head? Christ and only Christ. You must have total victory over SIN, holy and perfect through Christ. All that remain and abide in Christ keep both the law (ten commandments) and the testimonies which is the spirit of prophecy. The law reveals sin, but the testimonies is the solution of sin, Jesus who will soon come.

How do you know if any organization, church assembly, conference, or leadership is a part of the true ONE church of Christ?

Isaiah 30:8-11

8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:
9 That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD:
10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:
11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.

Isaiah 8:20

20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

The Law and Testimony of God's word expose error and uplifts truth, but invite persecutions for those who teach and live by it!

Revelation 11 Prophecy

Revelation chapter 11 gives us a dual prophecy of Papal Rome's disregard and conspiracy against God's truth in the past and in the near future. In the past millions were persecuted and slaughtered in cold blood and in the near future many will have the same fate because they remained on the Mountain of Truth keeping both the law and testimonies.

How is this revealed in Bible prophecy based on Revelation 11?

Revelation 11:3

3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days (1260 years), clothed in sackcloth.

God will give power to his two witnesses for 1260 years in sackcloth.

Sackcloth is a dark coarse sack worn by those in mourning or fasting. So in other words God prophesied that His two witnesses would have to prophesy and minister for 1260 years (now past) and 1260 literal days (soon future) as a humble messengers of truth in the midst of a world in deep spiritual gross darkness.

The first part of **Isaiah 60:2** says “For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people”: referring to the deep spiritual darkness” This is one of the main reasons why the two witnesses are mourning in “sackcloth”.

What do the two witnesses represent symbolically?

First: in verse 3 we see that they are given prophetic authority, they reveal future events as expressed by God.

These two witnesses are given direct prophetic authority which show that they have a close relationship and experience with God.

Second: the two witnesses are “witnesses”. Witnesses are those who testify of what they saw based on first-hand information either by a verbal or written testimony. Their testimony is not based on hearsay, but first-hand knowledge based on direct experience.

Why are two witnesses better than one witness?

Deuteronomy 19:15

15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Let’s go back to Revelation 11 and look at verses 4 - 6

Revelation 11:4 - 6

- 4 These are **the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.**
 5 And if any man will hurt them, **fire proceedeth out of their mouth**, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.
 6 These have **power to shut heaven**, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have **power over** waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Based on verse 5 and 6 these two witnesses are not human, they have divine authority and power. They can do things that ONLY God can do! They have the power to execute judgment by fire for those who hurt them.

In verse 4 these two witnesses are compared to **two olive trees** and **two candlesticks** standing before God.

Did you know that the prophet Zechariah had a similar vision about the two olive trees?

Zechariah 4:2 - 3

- 2 And (God) said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:
 3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right *side* of the bowl, and the other upon the left *side*

thereof.

It is clear that the two olive trees feed the candlesticks its oil as fuel to keep them burning.

Who do these two olive trees represent?

Zechariah 4:6

6 Then he (God) answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Like the lamp-stands in the ancient days, the fuel that feeds the two candlesticks to keep them shining bright light is olive oil that comes from the olive trees. The olive oil from olive tree that feed the candlesticks is representative as the holy spirit, the one who empowers us to do the work and follow the will of Christ.

Zechariah 4:11 - 14

11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What *are* these two olive trees upon the right *side* of the candlestick and upon the left *side* thereof?

12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What *be* these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden *oil* out of themselves?

13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these *be*? And I said, No, my lord.

14 Then said he, These *are* the **two anointed ones**, that **stand by the Lord** of the whole earth.

Zechariah 4:14 reveals that the two olives trees are the two anointed ones that stand before the Lord the exact same description as it is in Revelation 11! The two anointed ones are full of oil.

Oil

Throughout the Bible oil is symbolic of the anointing and the work of the Holy Spirit to do a great work for the mission of Christ.

Clues.... Two Witnesses

- Prophecy
- Witnesses – direct experience
- Divine Power
- Two Olive Trees = Two Anointed

Two Great Lights

Going back to Revelation 11:4 the two witnesses as described as two olive trees are two anointed ones who have divine authority that is full of the holy spirit, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and directed by the Holy Spirit. But remember that the two witness of Revelation 11 are described as two candlesticks or lamp-stands shining bright as **two GREAT LIGHTS** to the world with divine authority!

Who do these two witnesses represent as two great lights who are anointed by the Holy Spirit that have divine power to shut up the heavens, power over land and sea?

Psalms 119:105

105 Thy **word** *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:130

130 The entrance of thy **words** giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

What is God's Word and what are the two main parts?

Old Testaments and New Testaments. Remember the OT Christ revealed and the NT Christ fulfilled! These are the two witnesses symbolized in Revelation 11 described as two candlesticks and two olive trees.

Two witnesses = Old and New Testaments of God's Word! The Bible!**2 Timothy 3:16, 17**

16 **All scripture** *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:21

21 For the prophecy (testimonies!) came not in **old time (OLD TESTAMENT) by the will of man:** but holy men of God spake as they were **moved by the Holy Ghost.**

Don't miss this. **These two witnesses, OT and NT are actually the written testimony of God Himself a record inspired by God to man pointing to the law and the testimonies!!!**

That is why Jesus says....

John 5:39

39 Search [or examine] the **scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** [bear witness] of me. (Old and New Testament!)

Going back to Revelation 11:3**Revelation 11:3**

3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses (Old and New Testament), and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days (1260 years), clothed in sackcloth.

In the first application of the prophecy of Revelation 11:3 during Papal Rome's Empire from 538 to 1798 was 1260 years as prophesied that kept the people in gross spiritual darkness. Men, women, boys and girls were persecuted and many slaughtered for just having the word of God, the Bible. Many groups, like the Waldensians who wanted to live by both the law and the testimonies were forced to flee to the mountains to preserve TRUTH and get away from the oppression of Papal Rome. As "undercover" agents in "sack cloth" they carefully shared the precious truths of God's Word, in both the Old and New Testaments. The Bible had to be "secretly" translated in the native tongues of the common people. Those such as Wycliffe and William Tyndale had to be extremely careful "in the dark" at all cost trying to avoid the detection of Papal Rome to translate the Bible in English. Tyndale was eventually betrayed by a "friend" and killed by Papal Rome...

Secular history identifies the time that Papal Rome ruled from 538 to 1798 as the DARK AGES because Papal Rome killed many inventors, musicians, builders, some of the brightest and best. But the DARK AGES were mainly grossly dark because of the spiritual darkness.

In this time of Great Spiritual Darkness during Papal Rome's Empire what two key Bible doctrines were cast out by Papal Rome? This was actually prophesied in Daniel 8

Little Horn of Daniel 8 = Papal Rome

Daniel 8;11, 12

11 Yea, he (Papal Rome) magnified *himself* even to the prince of the host (Jesus Christ), and by him the daily (power) *sacrifice* was taken away, and the **place of his sanctuary was cast down. (thrown out!).**

12 And an host was given *him* against the daily *sacrifice* by reason of transgression, and it **cast down (thrown out!) the truth to the ground**; and it practised, and prospered.

Two key things that Papal Rome cast down during 1260 years was Christ's Sanctuary and the TRUTH!

Christ's Sanctuary Message points to the past, present, and future ministry of Jesus. The sanctuary message of both the OT (Earthly Sanctuary) and NT (Heavenly Sanctuary) is the testimony of Jesus! So Papal Rome cast down the testimonies. (Papal Rome priest was a replacement of christ.... etc... confessionals... etc... sanctuary message pointed to the testimonies....).

Then in verse 12 it says that it cast down the TRUTH to the ground. Jesus is the way the TRUTH and the life. God Word is TRUTH.

But what was the second key doctrine that was cast down to the ground?

Psalms 119:151

151 Thou *art* near, O LORD; and all thy commandments *are* truth.

The Ten Commandments, God's LAW was cast to the ground!

Matter of fact Papal Rome "changed" the Ten Commandments. First, they cast out the second commandment about bowing down to images and the fourth commandment (made to the third) and said "Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath." Papal Rome "changed" the seventh-day Sabbath, to Sunday as we already learned in previous studies.

So based on Daniel 8:11 and 12 during the Dark Ages of deep spiritual darkness, Papal Rome cast down to the ground both the LAW and TESTIMONIES!

Only those in the mountains and secret places were keeping both the law and testimonies. They were keeping the seventh-day Sabbath and looking forward to the second coming of Jesus, but the great majority were in deep spiritual darkness. The truth of God's Law and Testimonies were also in darkness. The truth about the seventh-day Sabbath and the second advent of Christ coming was lost. The "Seventh day Adventist's messages that was established by Jesus in the OT and NT appeared to gone forever

To be continued...